

Message Text

SECRET

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60

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 MBFR-02 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 ACDA-10 AEC-05 NEA-06 OMB-01

GAC-01 OIC-04 RSR-01 /091 W
----- 127046

R 071709 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0987

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T LONDON 05293

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - PRELIMINARY BRITISH REACTION TO US
PAPER ON APPROACHES TO MBFR

REF: US NATO 2127

1. TICKELL TODAY GAVE US HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION TO US
PAPER ON APPROACHES TO MBFR. HE SAID IT COULD BE
CHARACTERIZED AS " FAVORABLE". PAPER WAS, IN TICKELL'S
WORDS, AN INTELLECTUAL MASTERPIECE. HE FOUND BASIC
APPROACH COMMENDABLE AND REASSURING.

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2. TICKELL HOWEVER NOTED SEVERAL POINTS ON WHICH BRITISH TOOK EXCEPTION TO US PAPER. HE THOUGHT IT WAS INCOMPLETE IN THAT IT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ESTIMATE WHAT SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN MBFR ARE AND HOW US SUGGESTED OPTIONS MIGHT BE REGARDED BY EAST. SIMILARLY HE NOTED ABSENCE OF ANY DISCUSSION OF TACTICS, I. E. WHETHER OPTIONS WERE TO BE FIRM FINAL POSITIONS OR WERE NEGOTIABLE. TICKELL HASTENED TO SAY HOWEVER THAT HE RECOGNIZED WHY US HAD NOT COVERED FOREGOING POINTS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY IN DUE COURSE FOR ALLIES TO ANALYZE SOVIET PERCEPTIONS OF MBFR. IN THIS CONNECTION HE NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAVE SAID TO BRITISH THAT ALLIED FORCES OUTSIDE CENTRAL EUROPE WHICH ARE SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF THE PACT MUST BE " TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT" IN REACHING AGREEMENTS ON MBFR.

3. TICKELL COMMENTED, WITHOUT ELABORATION, THAT BRITISH TOOK ISSUE WITH US ON CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION FORMULATIONS. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT US PROPOSITION THAT EUROPEANS SHOULD MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE FORCES WHILE US MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN US TROOP COMMITMENT SEEMED TO BE AN UNEQUAL BARGAIN.

4. TICKELL SAID THAT AT MAY 10 NAC BRITISH WILL NOT HAVE MUCH COMMENT TO MAKE IN US PAPER WHICH IS RECEIVING INTENSIVE STUDY BY FCO AND MOD.
ANNENBERG

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
EUR
MOSCOW
PARIS
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

VIENNA

Type: TE

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